

Birch Lake Elementary PTA Meeting October 17, 2023

Members in Attendance: Kathleen Elletson, Mindy Thorson, Jenny Walbridge, Ben Ferin, Beth Schickert, Tracy Kelly, Julian Stanke, Kelly Taucher, Brian Griebenow, Krista Mickelson, Davin Mickelson

Guests in Attendance: -

Meeting Called to Order: 6:05 by Krista

Review of Last Meeting's Minutes: Approved as submitted

School Board Report: N/A

Principal's Report:

- Playground may take another year
 - Takes a long time to obtain the materials and workforce
 - Funding necessary will likely be \$200-300K, not \$100K as originally thought
- Laura Wright is leaving Birch, her last day will be November 3rd
- Working on family directory

Teacher's Report by Mr. Griebenow:

- From Mrs. Weiss:
 - 4/5 are learning about the Middle Ages
 - The 4/5 classes are taking a field trip on 11/2 to see "The Addams Family"
- From Mrs. Theissen:
 - The 5th grade Wolf Ridge trip was a success
 - Classes included Ojibwe culture and the rope courses
 - They held a publishing party with their personal narratives
 - DARE starts on 10/26 with program graduation in December
- From Mrs. Solheim:
 - The 1st grade is learning about Louis Pasteur
- Recent field trips:
 - 2nd grade went to Pine Tree Apple Orchard
 - 3rd grade went to the History Center

Teacher's Report by Mrs. Elletson:

- Grade K has an art specialist this year
 - May switch to Spanish at mid-year

- Brand new literacy program this year called Amplify
- Just starting a new unit on plants (grade K)

Treasurer's Report:

- Income: \$221 cash donations from Bounce Back Night
- Expenses: Admin: liability insurance & accounting software (\$589); \$2500 towards Wolf Ridge transportation; \$1300 for bounce houses, Grade K used their ECFE donation \$175; Ms. Dalbec and Ms. Wells turned in classroom reimbursement requests (\$295)
- Grant request came in for \$400 for MN Zoo trip for 3rd grade – will use Field Trip fund
- Motion to add both PreK teachers to the \$250 classroom support list
 - Motion by Tracy, Second by Beth – Motion passed
- Inquired about Impacks – did it happen/we received no money from project {Impacks creates school supply boxes and ships them directly to schools}
 - Only mentioned in one email - will try again this year
 - Tracy will give us an update at the next meeting

Past Events:

- Bounce Back to School attended by 75-100 families
- Heggies fundraiser had record participation – 123 orders

Ongoing Fundraisers:

- [Box Tops for Education](#)
 - Scan grocery receipts with your phone, we get credit for General Mills products
- [Give with Bing for Birch Lake Elementary PTA](#)
 - Search with Bing to earn points that turn into cash for our PTA
- Groceries for Good Causes – Kowalski's in White Bear Lake
 - Put receipts in the box at the front of the store, donations issued twice a year

Upcoming Events:

- Pizza Pick-Up Night is November 1
- Open Gym is November 17
- Theatre Night Out – “The Addams Family”
 - Use code BIRCHLAKE to purchase tickets, the PTA will get a donation
- Community Event – Trunk or Treat at Sunrise Middle School
- Holiday Store – now on Friday, December 15th
 - Move from the gym to (possibly) the library
 - One \$5 gift will be allowed per student
 - Teachers will collect donations (to submit to PTA)
 - All students will get \$5 in Birch Bucks
 - No money will change hands during the event
 - Will request volunteers from Christ the King Church again this year

New Business:

- Grant request from Ellie Gutteter, Social Worker, for Magna Tiles and Legos: \$50.81
 - Grant approved
- Little Free Library – Working with Student Council to get a new LFL in front of the school
- Ben Ferin volunteered for the Secretary position
- Mr. Griebenow wants to bring Skatetime to Birch Lake
 - Students would learn to roller skate
 - Company provides skates and safety equipment
 - Needs about \$1000
 - Will focus our Give to the Max campaign to raise money for this
 - Skate the School event?
 - Older kids could skate the donut, younger kids in the gym
 - Principal will see if it's permissible

Meeting Adjourned by Mindy at 8:00 PM